

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 were pending in this application.

Claims 1, 5-7, 11-17, 21-23, 27 and 28 have been rejected.

Claims 2-4, 8-10, 18-20 and 24-26 have been objected to.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 13, 17, 19 and 20 are amended herein.

Claims 2 and 18 are hereby canceled.

Claims 1, 3-17 and 19-28 remain pending in this application.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication in Section 3 of the August 26, 2004, Office Action, that Claims 2-4, 8-10, 18-20 and 24-26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant has amended Claim 1 to incorporate limitations from Claim 2. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 and its dependents are now allowable. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1 and 3-12.

Similarly, the Applicant has amended Claim 13 to recite limitations analogous to those in canceled Claim 2. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 13 and its dependents are now allowable. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 13-16.

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Finally, the Applicant has amended Claim 17 to incorporate limitations from Claim 18. As such, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 17 and its dependents are now allowable. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 17 and 19-28.

SUMMARY

For the reasons given above, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of pending claims and requests that this Application pass to issue. If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *jmockler@davismunck.com*.

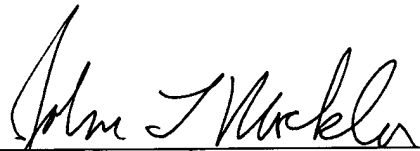
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,
DAVIS MUNCK, P.C.

Date:

24 Nov 2004

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